U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ROSEBURG DISTRICT

NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

A. Background:

BLM Office: Roseburg District CX#: OR-103-08-26

777 NW Garden Valley Blvd Roseburg, Oregon, 97470 Phone: 541-464-4930

Proposed Action Title: 2008 Sample Tree Felling for the Roseburg District

Location of Proposed Action: The general project area is the Roseburg District. Individual units occur in the following locations:

Legal Description		Resource Area	
(Township-Range-Section)	Land Use Allocation*		
T.23S., R.4W., Sec. 23	Connectivity/Diversity Block	Swiftwater	
T.23S., R.4W., Sec. 15	General Forest Management Area (GFMA)	Swiftwater	
T.23S., R.5W., Sec. 13	GFMA	Swiftwater	
T.23S., R.4W., Sec. 7	Connectivity/Diversity Block	Swiftwater	
T.26S., R.7W., Sec. 17, 18, 19	GFMA	Swiftwater	
T.27S., R.3W., Sec. 7	GFMA	Swiftwater	
T.27S., R.4W., Sec. 13	Adaptive Management Area (AMA)	Swiftwater	
T.24S., R.7W., Sec. 7, 18	Late Successional Reserve (LSR)	Swiftwater	
T.25S., R.8W., Sec. 3 & 15	LSR	Swiftwater	
T.21S., R.4W., Sec. 27	Connectivity/Diversity Block	Swiftwater	
T.23S., R.4W., Sec. 3	Connectivity/Diversity Block	Swiftwater	
T.22S., R.4W., Sec. 23, 27	Connectivity/Diversity Block	Swiftwater	
T.22S., R.4W., Sec. 9, 15	Connectivity/Diversity Block	Swiftwater	
T.22S., R.4W., Sec. 20, 21	Connectivity/Diversity Block	Swiftwater	
T.21S., R.4W., Sec. 35	Connectivity	Swiftwater	
T.27S., R.3W., Sec. 9	AMA	Swiftwater	
T.31S., R.6W., Sec 5,7,17, & 19	GFMA/ Connectivity/Diversity Block	South River	
T.31S., R.7W., Sec 13	LSR	South River	
T.30S., R7W., Sec 13	GFMA	South River	
T.31S.,R4W., Sec 13,21,23,30	LSR	South River	
T30S., R.3W., Sec 15, 21 & 23	GFMA/ Connectivity/Diversity Block	South River	
T.29S., R.3W., Sec 25, 27, 33, 35	GFMA/ Connectivity/Diversity Block	South River	
T.30S., R.3W., Sec 3	GFMA/ Connectivity/Diversity Block	South River	
T.30S., R.2W., Sec 3,9, 11& 15	GFMA/ Connectivity/Diversity Block	South River	
T.30S., R.8W., Sec 25,27, & 35	LSR	South River	

^{*} Treatment may occur within Riparian Reserves associated with Connectivity and GFMA land use allocations.

For specific unit configuration, see attached maps.

A. Description of Proposed Action: The Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to fell, buck, and scale sample trees ("sample tree felling") to ensure accuracy of timber cruises for commercial thinning and density management sales limited to the 2008 calendar year. Sample trees would only be felled within the proposed sale units detailed above and illustrated on attached maps. Only trees selected for harvest would be felled; these trees would be randomly selected and would be bucked to standard, merchantable lengths for direct measurement of volume and evaluation of condition and value. Fell, buck, and scale sampling:

- Shall be limited to an average of one tree per acre or less,
- Shall be limited to gas-powered chainsaws or hand tools,
- Shall not include any road or trail construction,
- Shall not include the use of ground based equipment or other manner of timber yarding.

Sample tree felling would be one of the last activities completed during preparation of timber sales. Sample tree felling would occur as part of the timber cruising process, prior to issuance of the sale decision, but after completion of: planning and environmental analysis by an interdisciplinary team, all site inventories (for example, wildlife, botany, and cultural resources), and sale layout and preparation. If consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service is required for timber sales, sample tree felling would be included as a component of timber sales in that consultation. In the event a unit or sale is not logged (for example, if sale of the timber is unsuccessful), any felled trees would remain on site; otherwise, felled sample trees would be yarded during the harvest operations of the timber sale.

Design Features of the Proposed Action

- When adjacent to Riparian Reserves, trees would be directionally felled away from or parallel to the Riparian Reserve to avoid damage to riparian habitat.
- When operating within Riparian Reserves, trees would be directionally felled away from the stream channel, and no trees within 20 feet of the stream channel would be felled.
- If, during implementation of the proposed action, any BLM Special Status Species are found that were not discovered during pre-disturbance surveys, felling would be suspended until further review by BLM specialists is completed and application of any necessary measures is applied.
- If, during implementation of the proposed action, a raptor nest is found in a tree identified for removal, felling would be suspended until further review by BLM specialists could be completed and necessary measures applied.
- If, during implementation of the proposed action, any cultural resources are found that were not discovered during pre-disturbance surveys, felling would be suspended and appropriate measures would be implemented before felling would be resumed.
- Where felling of a sample tree would be contingent upon the felling of snags greater than or equal to 20 inches diameter at breast height, that particular sample tree would not be felled.

- No chainsaw work would occur within 65 yards of unsurveyed suitable northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) habitat, known nest sites, or known activity centers from March 1st-July 15th unless current year surveys indicate that northern spotted owls are not present, are present but not attempting to nest, or that nesting attempts have failed (Roseburg Biological Assessment dated January 23, 2008).
- No chainsaw work would occur within 100 yards of any marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) site or unsurveyed suitable nesting habitat in Zone 1 or within the Zone 2 Restriction Corridor from April 1st August 5th. Chainsaw work would be subject to daily operating restrictions from August 6th September 15th; these daily operating restrictions prohibit commencement of operations until two hours after sunrise and require operations cease two hours before sunset (Roseburg Biological Assessment dated January 23, 2008).
- In Zone 2 outside the Restriction Corridor, chainsaw work within 100 yards of any
 marbled murrelet site or unsurveyed suitable nesting habitat would be subject to daily
 operating restrictions (discussed above) from April 1st August 5th (Roseburg
 Biological Assessment dated January 23, 2008).
- When operating in critical habitat for northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet, potential nest trees would be retained until consultation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service on the timber sale(s) is completed and a biological opinion issued.

B. Plan Conformance Review:

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* and *Record of Decision* (ROD/RMP, 1995) as amended, and is consistent with the RMP decision to provide a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products (ROD/RMP p.60).

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with **516 DM 11.9**, **C. Forestry**, **(6)** – Felling, bucking, and scaling sample trees to ensure accuracy of timber cruises.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment, as documented in the following table. The proposed action is reviewed below, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

D. Categorical Exclusions - Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:		NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: All proposed activities follow established Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules concerning health and safety. The proposed sample tree felling is in remote, forested locations outside of population centers.		
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X

Rationale: Trees to be felled are only within the proposed timber sale units (see maps); these units are, by design, outside of unique areas such as those discussed above. No tree felling will occur in parks. recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands. Felling an average of one sample tree per acre (or less) would not change the overall habitat function of the stand or remove habitat at the species level; as such, the proposed action would not have significant impacts on migratory birds. 2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts X concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]. Rationale: Past experience has shown that the environmental effects of felling individual trees (not to exceed an average of 1 per acre) within the forest are not highly controversial. The ROD/RMP establishes the land use allocation and goals for the affected lands; as such, there is no unresolved conflict regarding other uses of these resources. 2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique X or unknown environmental risks. Rationale: Past felling of individual trees has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown risks. 2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future X actions with potentially significant environmental effects. Rationale: Sample tree felling has taken place throughout the State of Oregon and the Roseburg District for years. There is no evidence that this action, improving the accuracy of timber cruises, has potentially significant environmental effects. Sample tree felling is a discrete action completed as part of timber sale preparation – it does not commit the BLM to pursuing further actions, and as such would not establish a precedent or decision for future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. 2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively X significant environmental effects. Rationale: Sample tree felling has been conducted in the past and this activity had no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect. Sample tree felling is a cruising tool used to improve the timber sale process, but this action is not integral to the timber sale process. The District timber sale program was analyzed in the RMP's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and individual sales are further analyzed in site-specific NEPA analysis (environmental assessments, or EAs) tiered to this EIS, which historically result in findings of no significant impact (FONSIs). 2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National X Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office. Rationale: Cultural resources inventories would be conducted prior to implementing the proposed action. If cultural resources are found within a unit through pre-disturbance inventories or during implementation of the proposed action, appropriate measures would be applied. 2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, as an Endangered or X Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. Rationale: Surveys, as required for consultation, would be conducted for listed species and species proposed for listing prior to sample tree felling. If sites are found, implementation of the Project Design Features would minimize disturbance effects to individuals. Some proposed units are within critical habitat for northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet. However, felling an average of one sample tree per acre (or less) would not change the overall habitat function of the stand or result in the loss of critical habitat. Project Design Features would prevent removal of primary constituent elements prior to the completion of consultation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. 2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the X protection of the environment. Rationale: The proposed action conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the Roseburg District ROD/RMP, which complies with all applicable laws, such as the Clean Water Act and others.

2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898).		
Rationale: The felling of individual trees would not affect low income or minority populations – the activity is dispersed across District-administered land which is largely interspersed with private, ind forest land. Furthermore, this action ensures that the public, including low income and minority populations, receive a fair price for the public resources (timber) being sold.	ustrial	
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	X	
Rationale: Cultural resources inventories would be conducted prior to implementing the proposed accultural resources are found within a unit through pre-disturbance inventories or during implementation the proposed action, appropriate measures would be applied.	tion. If	
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non- native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	X	
Rationale: Felling of individual trees would not measurably change the rate of introduction, continue existence, or spread of noxious weeds or invasive species. Vehicles accessing the project area would on existing roads, reducing the potential of picking up and dispersing noxious weeds or seed.	ed I stay	

I considered the proposed action and its design features in my evaluation and I find the proposed action would not have significant impacts to the human environment.

E. Signature:

Authorizing/Official: Date: 4/29/08

Name: Donald Gonzalez

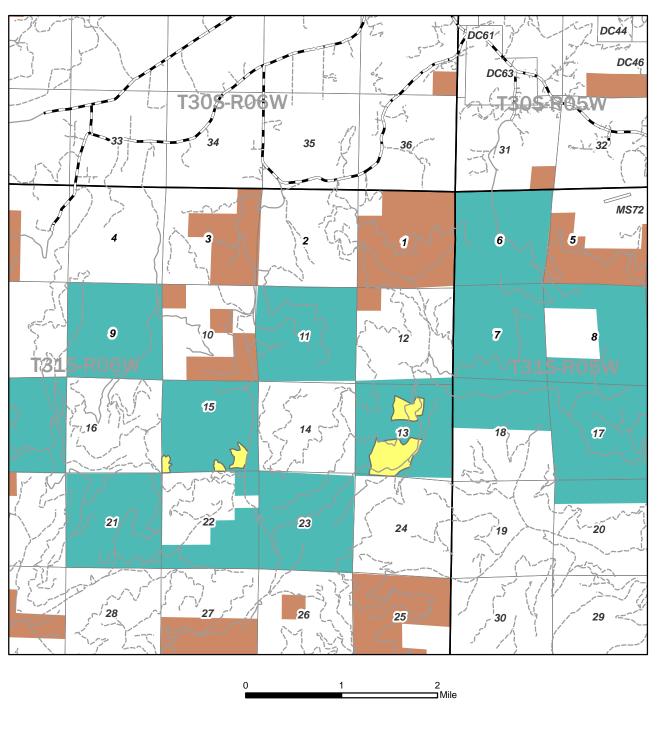
Title: District Manager (Acting)

F. Contact Person & Reviewers:

For additional information concerning this Categorical Review, contact: Paul Ausbeck or Meagan Conry Roseburg District BLM 541-440-4930

Reviewers	Resource	Initials	Date
Meagan Conry	Planner	Muc	4/25/08
Scott Lightcap	Fisheries Biologist	MAB for st	4/28/08
Christopher Foster	Wildlife Biologist	cer	4/28/2008
Susan Carter	Botanist	SEC	4/28/2008
Steve Niles	Forester	TAK	4/28/08
Steve Wetherell	Cruiser/Appraiser	Sun	4/28/2008
Isaac Barner	Archaeologist	4113	4/28/08

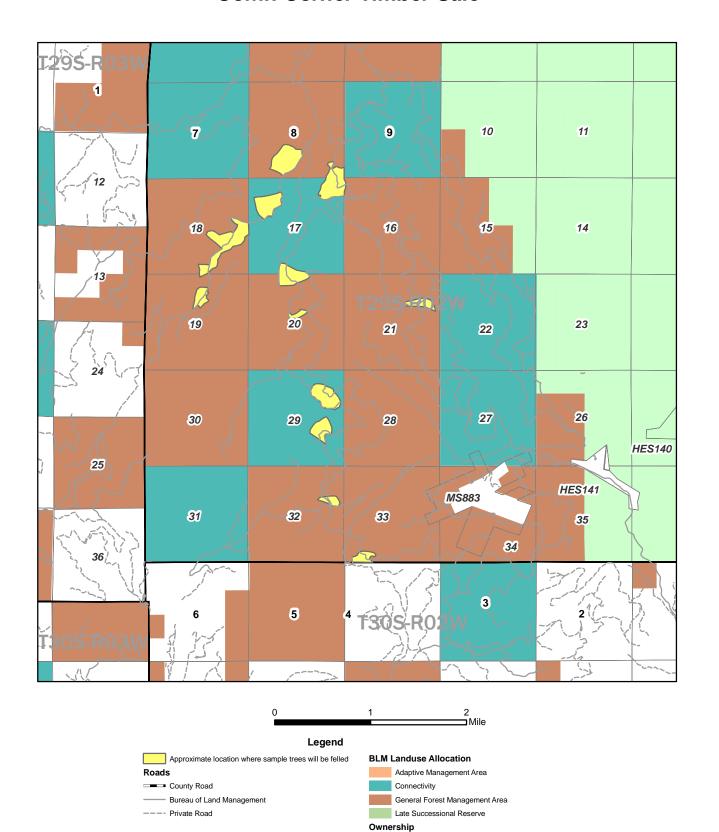
Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Minnesota Flats Timber Sale







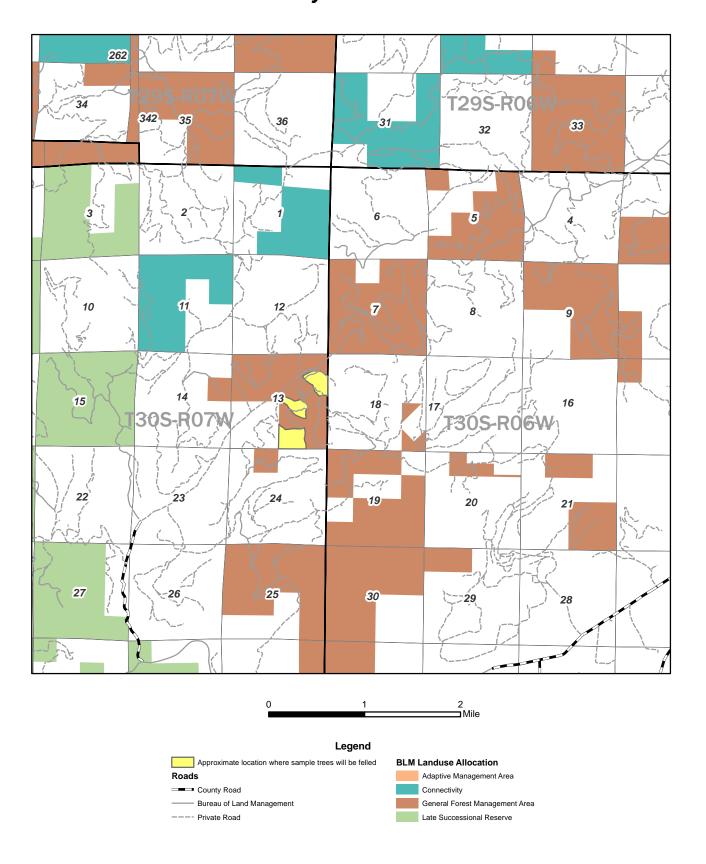
Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Coffin Corner Timber Sale





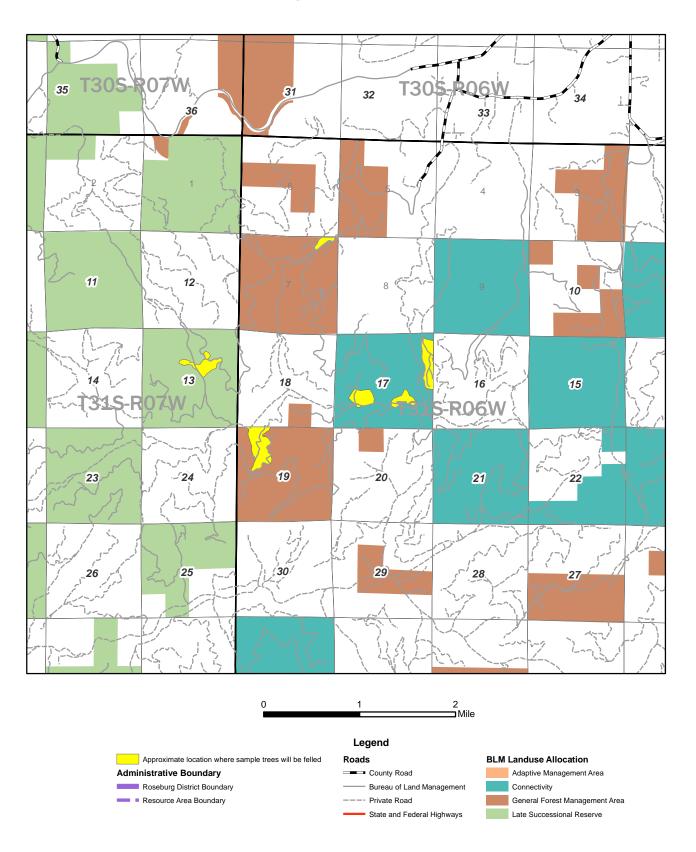
US Forest Service Managed Land

Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Doe Eyed Timber Sale





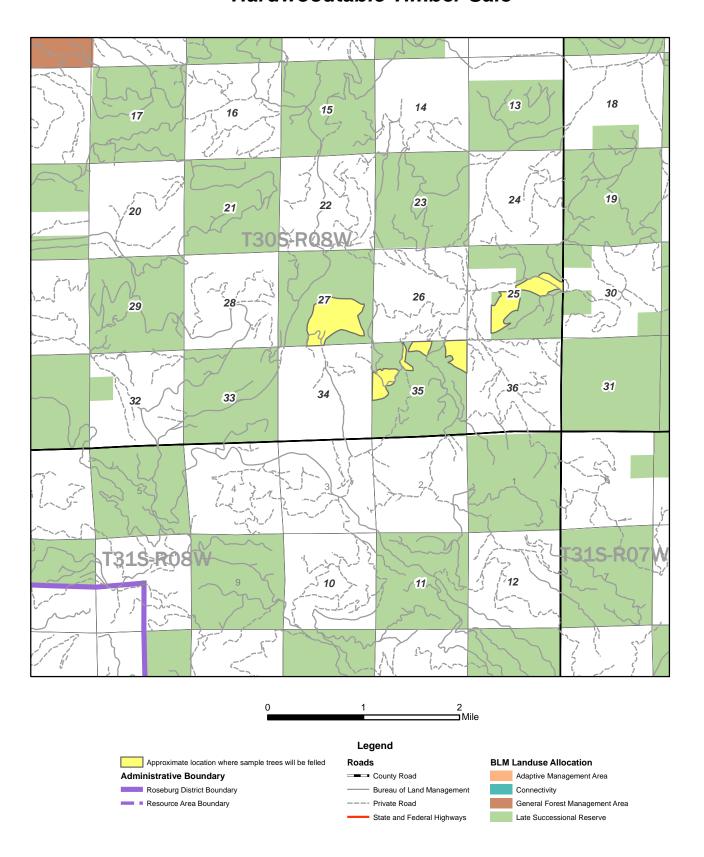
Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Dragnet Timber Sale





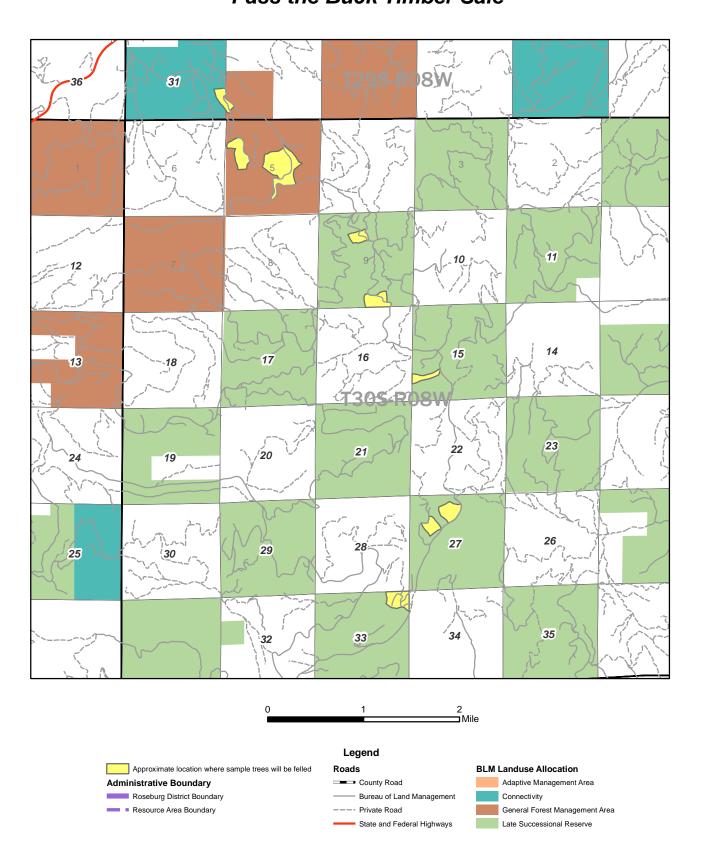
Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion

Hardwoodtable Timber Sale



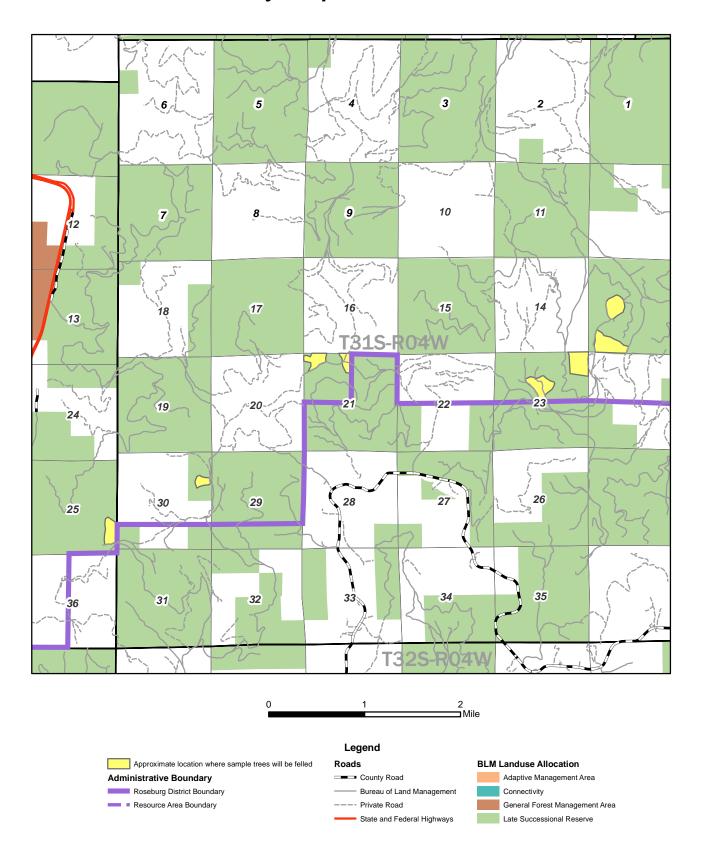


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Pass the Buck Timber Sale



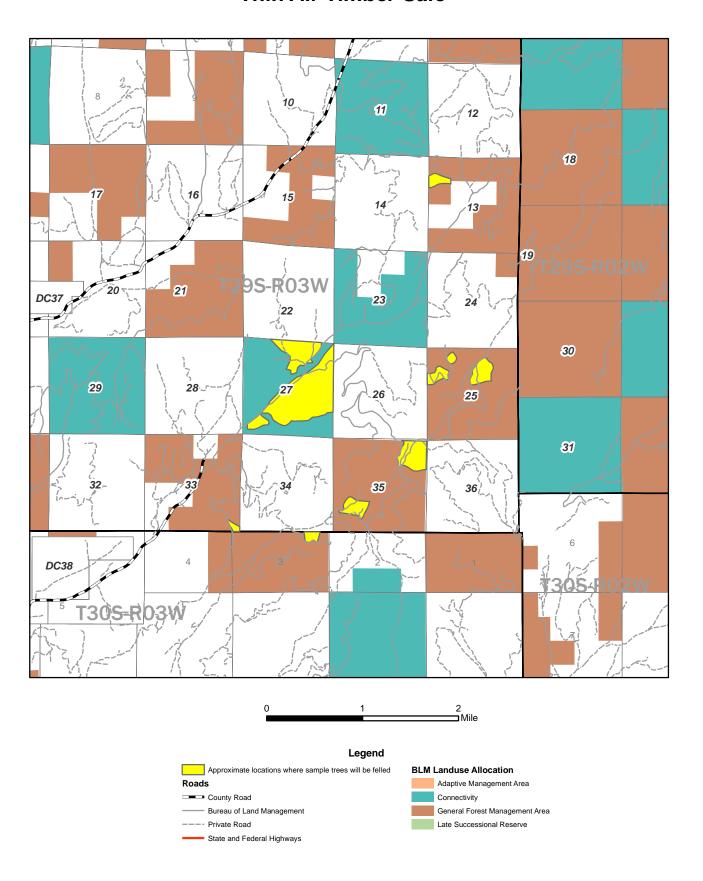


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Shively Whiplash Timber Sale



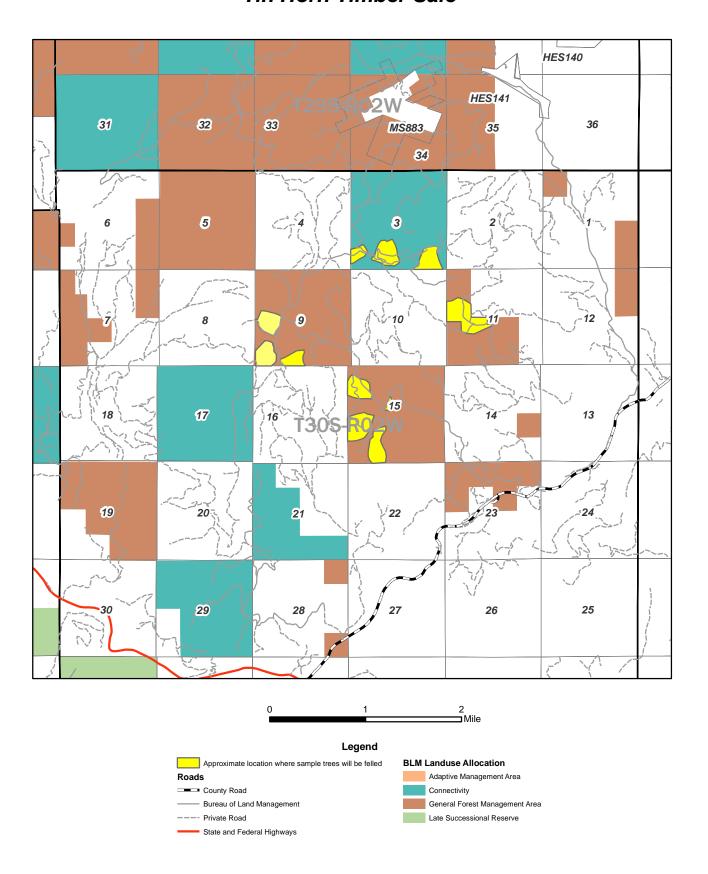


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion *Thin Air Timber Sale*



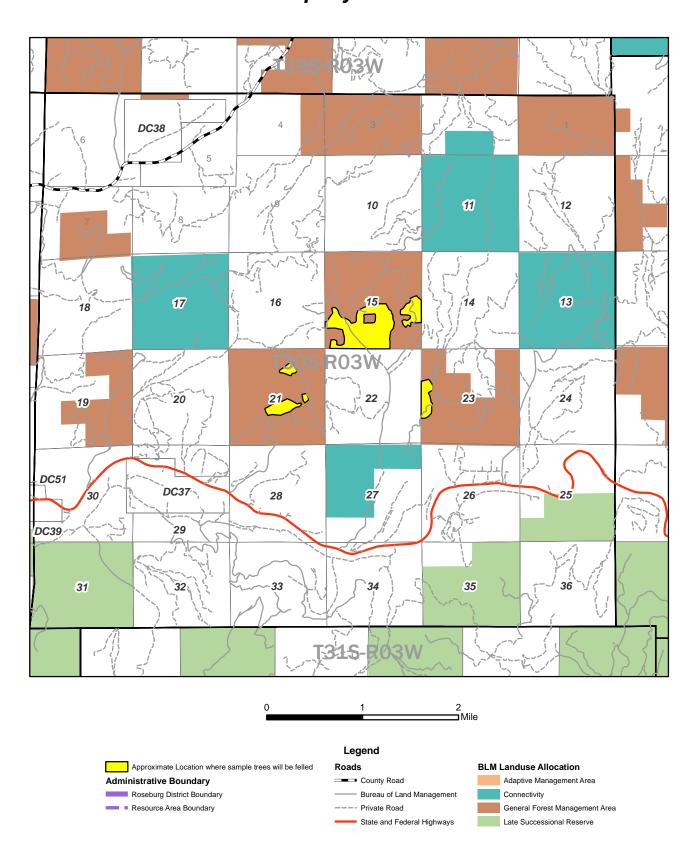


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Tin Horn Timber Sale



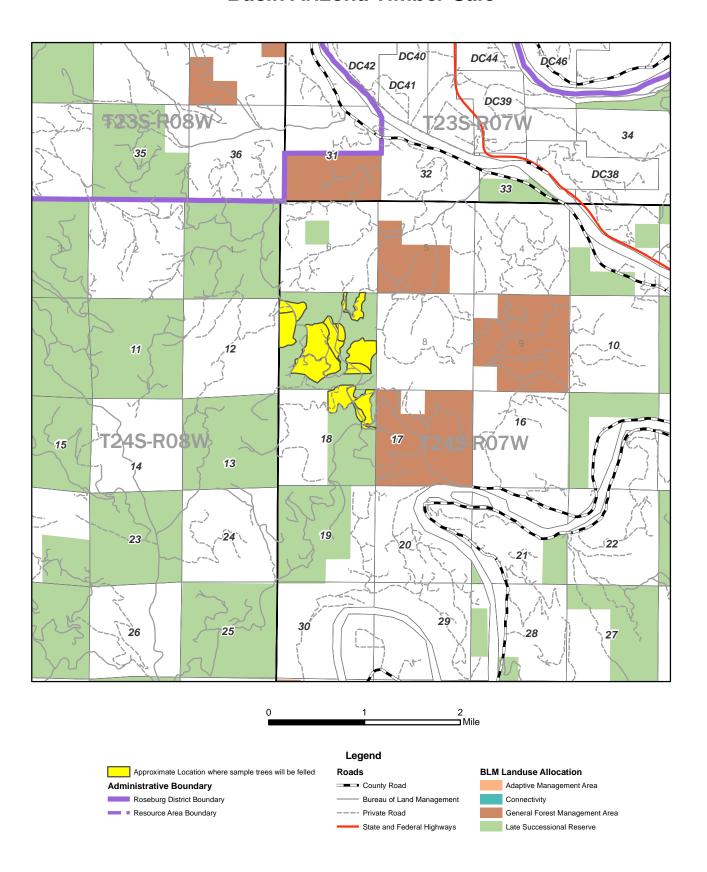


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion *Tree Top Flyer Timber Sale*



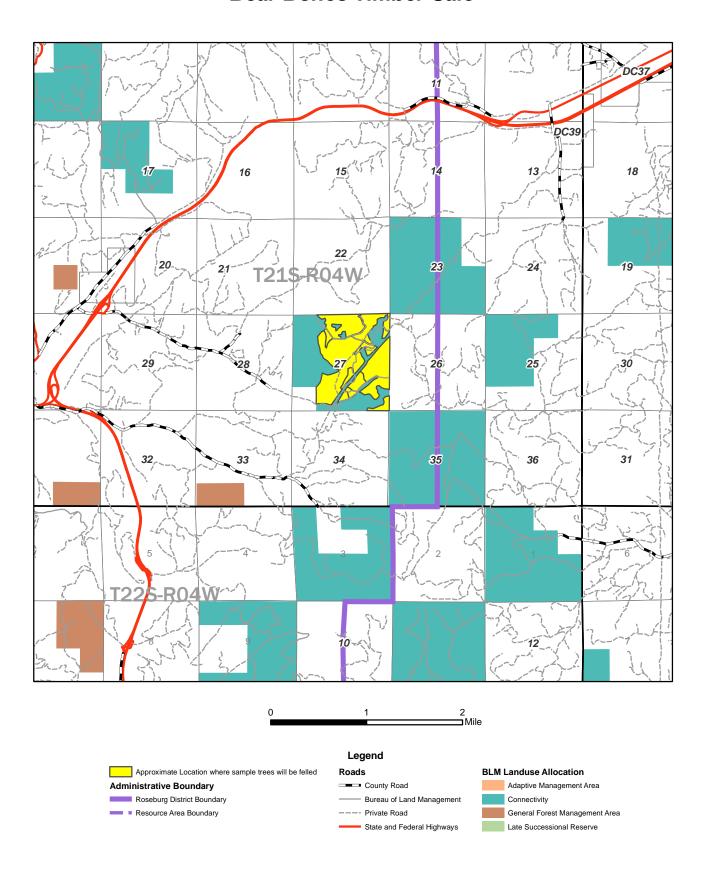


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Basin Arizona Timber Sale



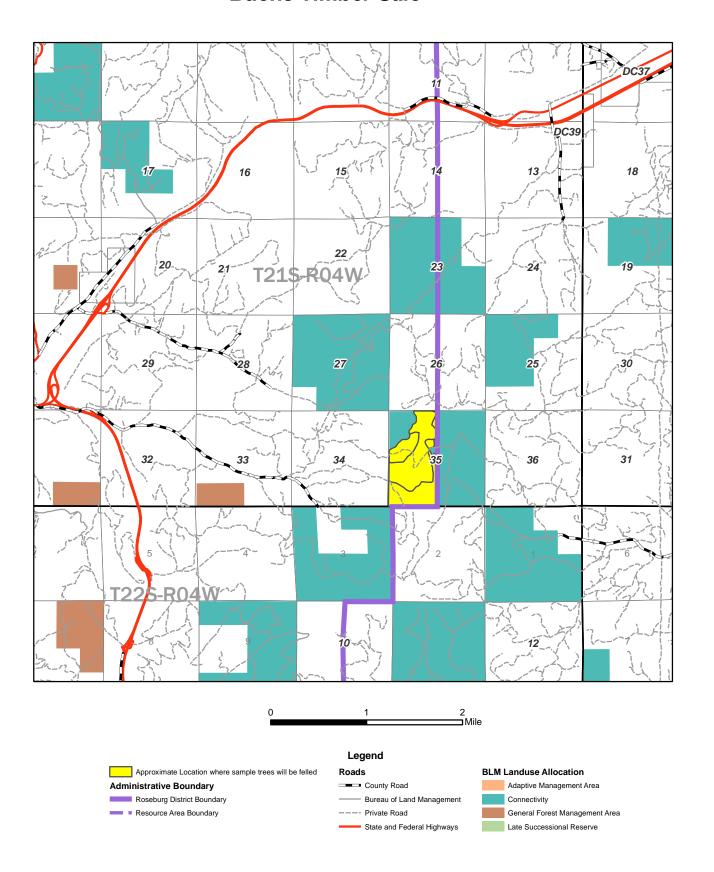


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Bear Bones Timber Sale



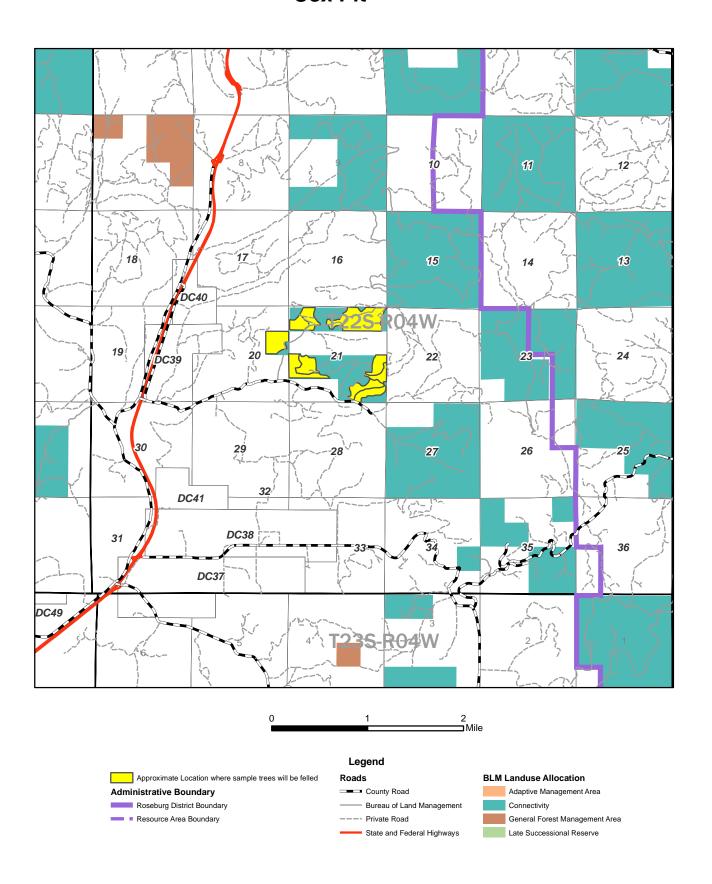


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion *Bucko Timber Sale*



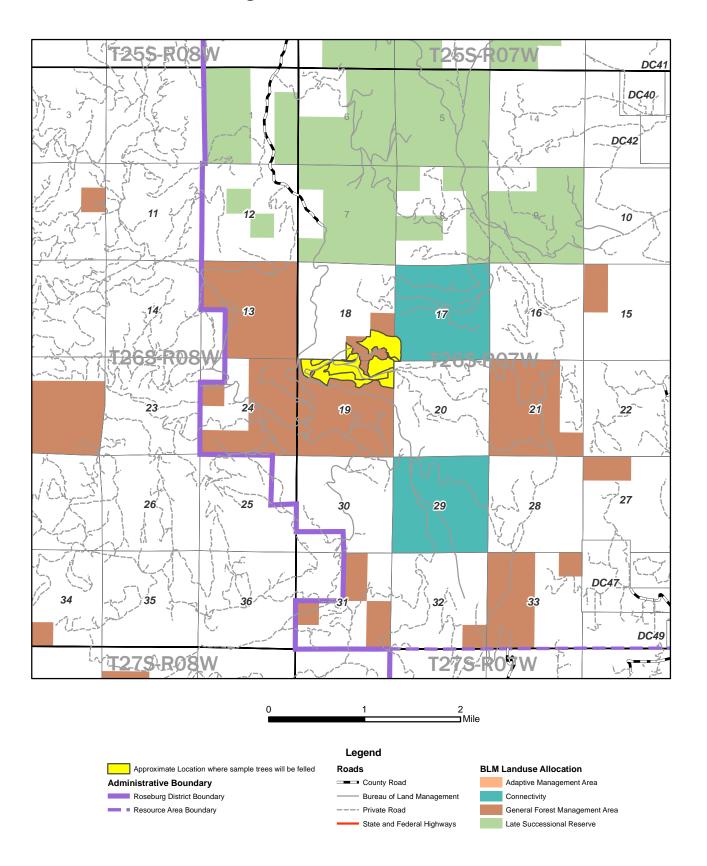


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Cox Pit



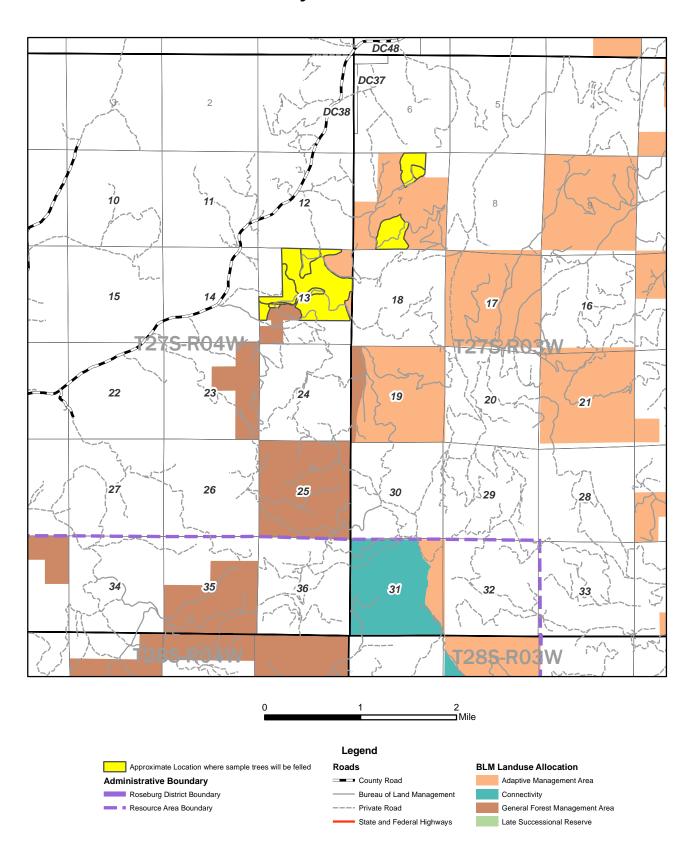


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Dog Bone Timber Sale



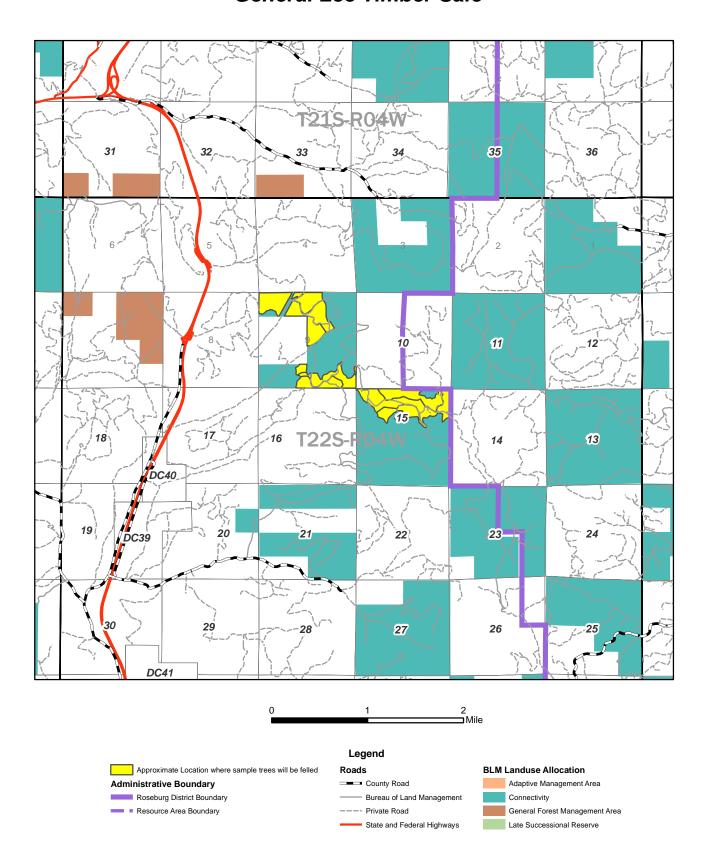


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Elementary Watson Timber Sale



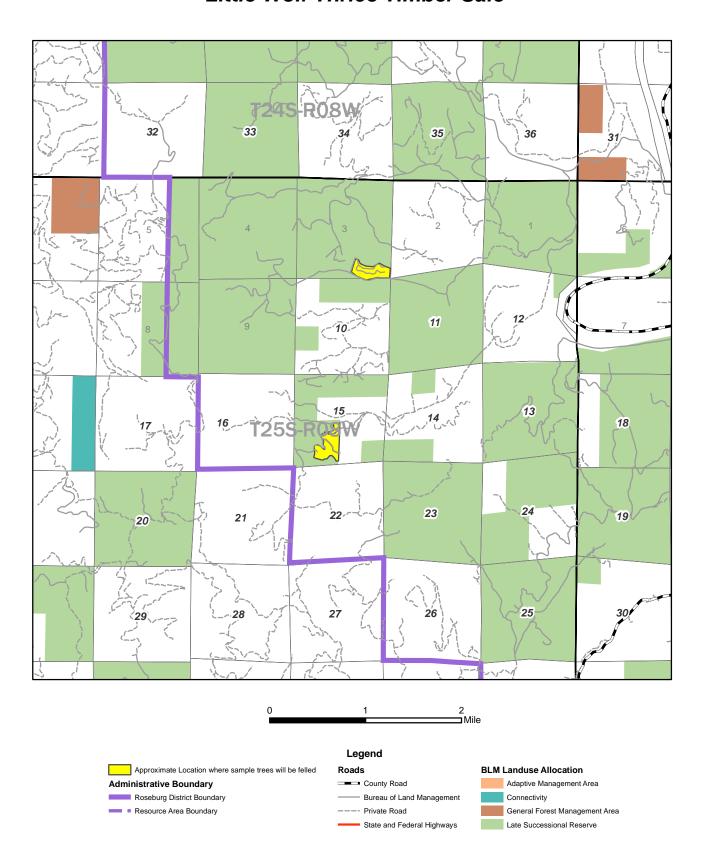


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion General Lee Timber Sale



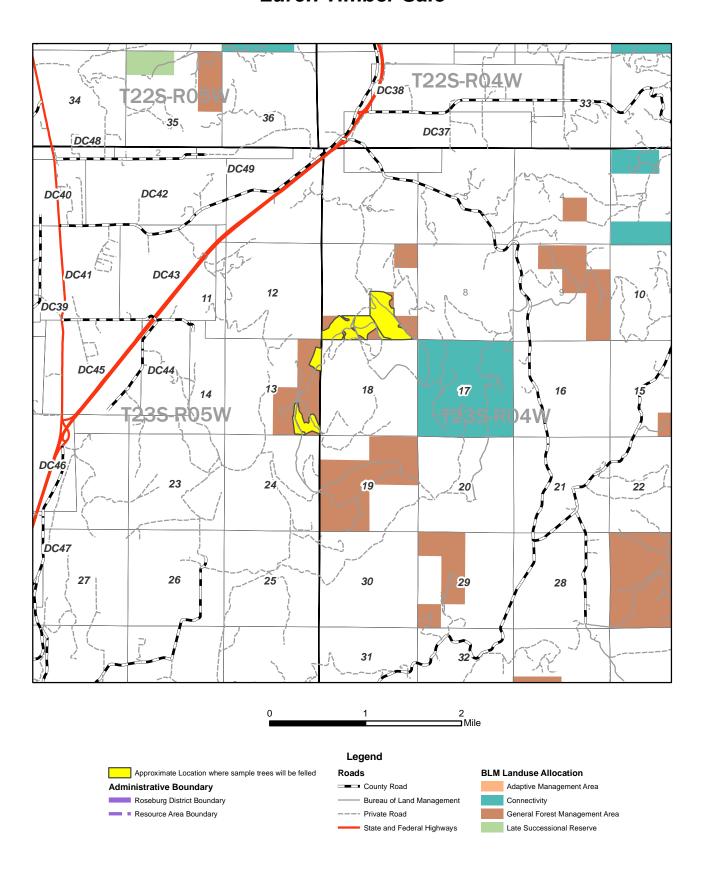


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Little Wolf Thrice Timber Sale



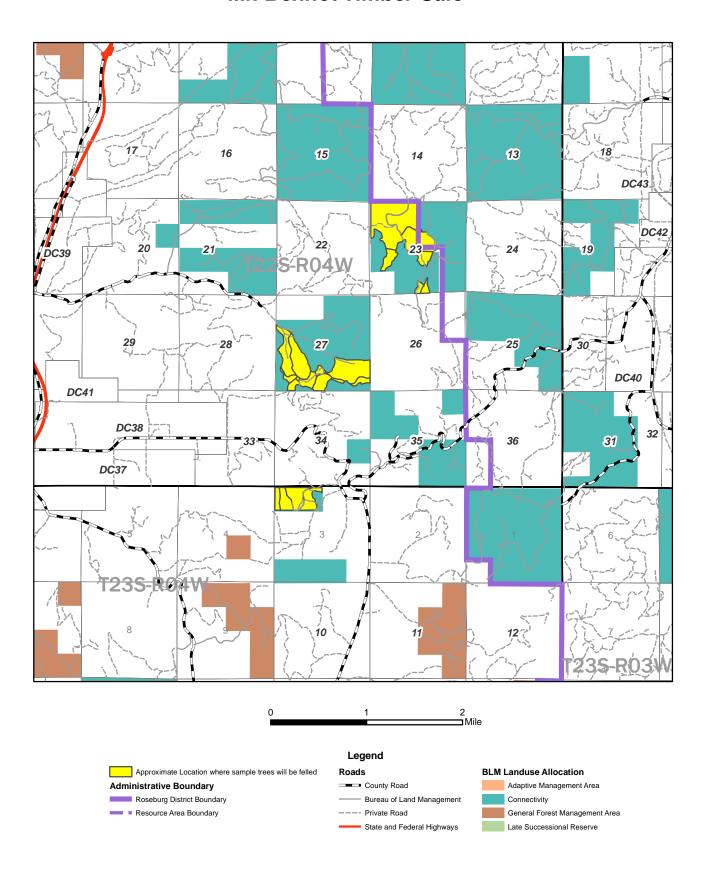


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion *Lurch Timber Sale*



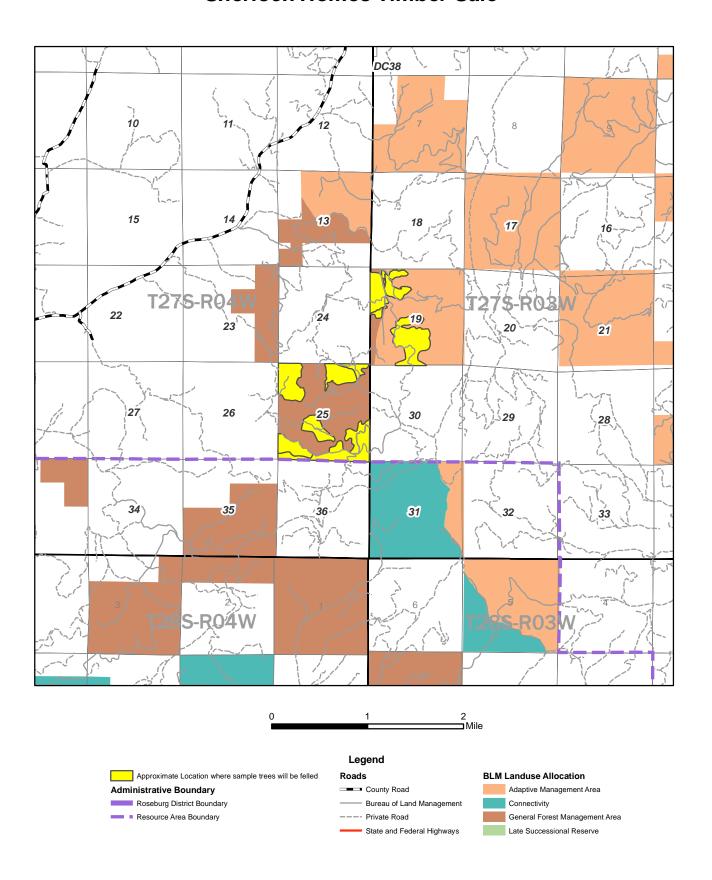


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Mr. Bennet Timber Sale



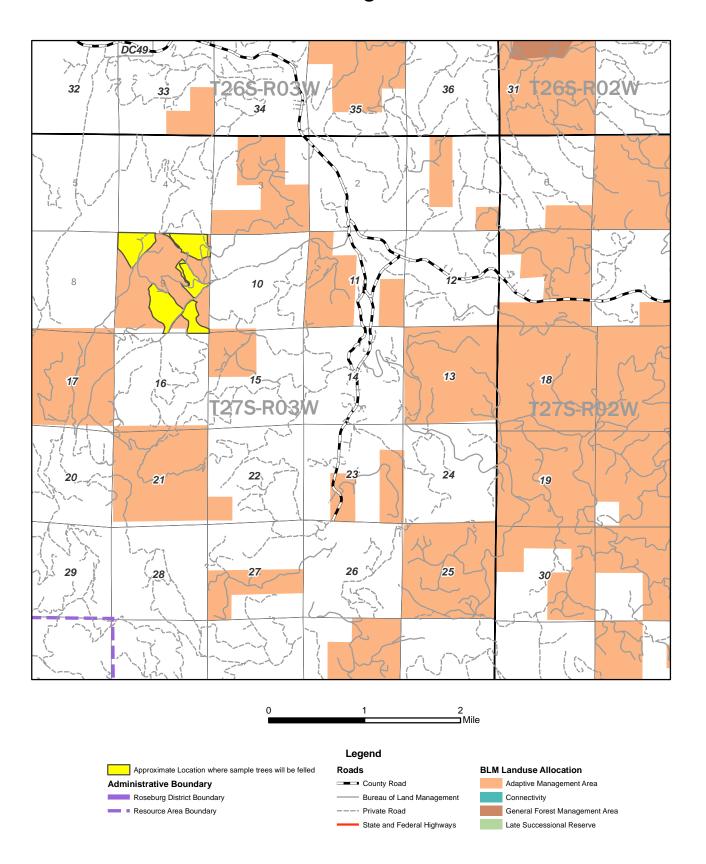


Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Sherlock Homes Timber Sale





Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Slim Big Jim





Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Slow Lane Timber Sale

